

Endou et al.  
U.S.S.N. 09/424,347  
Amendment Dated March 24, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003  
Page 4

#### REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claim 17 has been amended and new claim 21 presented. Claims 17 and 19-21 are now pending in the instant application. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found throughout the specification. For example, support for the amendments to claim 17 can be found under heading 5 on pages 16 and 17 of the specification as filed. Support for new claim 21 can be found under headings 4 and 5 on pages 16 and 17 of the specification as filed. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 21, as presently presented, fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, including the requirement to delineate one or more essential steps to the method.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

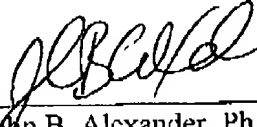
Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed

Endou et al.  
U.S.S.N. 09/424,347  
Amendment Dated March 24, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003  
Page 5

for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No.  
**04-1105.**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 24, 2004



---

John B. Alexander, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 48,399)  
Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman  
Intellectual Property Practice Group  
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP  
P.O. Box 55874  
Boston, MA 02205  
Tel: (617) 439-4444  
Fax: (617) 439-4170